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feres with the absolutely indispensable quality of Hann's *Lehrbuch*. It is simply smaller, easier to handle, and less formidable, and therefore to be commended particularly to those who do not wish to make too serious a study of Meteorology as a whole, and are especially interested in clouds and precipitation.

The successive chapters take up evaporation, water vapor and humidity; condensation; fog; clouds; cloudiness and sunshine; rain; snow; hail; measurement of rainfall; rainfall data and their treatment; diurnal, annual and secular periods in precipitation; the causes of the distribution of rainfall over the earth's surface and the geographical distribution of this rainfall. The text is enlivened, at frequent intervals, by the introduction of interesting illustrations, and by references to the human relations of the subjects under discussion. Professor Kassner's style is admirably adapted for scientific writing, and he has made much clearer than many authors whom we have previously read several matters which almost always give trouble to students. Although the title emphasizes clouds, our author finds space to give excellent brief statements regarding forests and rainfall and changes of climate. He has made very clear the somewhat confusing subject of the three different kinds of snow-line. He has included (for the first time, we believe, in a meteorological text-book) an explanation of the curious forms of melting snow known as "nieve penitente," familiar to those who have visited the Chilean Cordillera. The modern trigonometric methods of cloud measurements are described and illustrated. An unusual photograph, that of the "Föhnmauer," is reproduced in Fig. 3, and another interesting one (Fig. 36) is that of the "snow-garlands" which the author recently described elsewhere.

Professor Kassner's book meets a need which we feel sure has been felt by many persons interested, professionally or otherwise, in Meteorology. The editor of the series in which "Das Reich der Wolken" appears was fortunate in securing an author who, in his "Das Wetter" and now in the present volume, has added two useful works to the meteorologist's library.

R. DEC. W.

Die Vegetation der Erde. Sammlung Pflanzegeographischer Monographien. Herausgegeben von A. Engler und O. Drude.

VII. Die Pflanzenwelt von West-Australien südliche des Wendekreises. Von Dr. L. Diels. xii and 413 pp., 1 Map, 82 Figures in the Text, 34 Tables and Index. VIII. Grundzüge der Pflanzenverbreitung in Chile. Von Dr. Karl Reiche. xiv and 374 pp., 2 Maps, 55 Figures in Text, 33 Tables, and Index. Wilhelm Engelmann, Leipzig, 1906 and 1907. Price, M. 36 and M. 30.

This notable series of monographs on plant geography is describing the vegetation of the earth under widely differing conditions, and the series, it is expected, will cover all the varied aspects of the botanical kingdom. Dr. Diels introduces Vol. VII with a general discussion of the various conditions of plant life in Australia and of the Antarctic, Melanesian, and Australian elements that enter into the flora of the southern continent. The Antarctic element is least important and is confined to the southeastern corner of the continent. The author's field of investigation was that part of Western Australia south of the Tropic of Capricorn. He treats (1) the history of the botanical exploration of the region; (2) its geographical and climatic conditions; (3) the vegetation of the Southwest province, 171 pages; (4) the vegetation of the Erenæa province, 51 pages; and (5) the floral characteristics, elements and types in the region studied and their relations to the flora of other parts of the continent.

Dr. Reiche has been a resident of Chile for many years, and volume VIII takes the reader over the wide field of his botanical studies. Over 100 pages are

given to a general description of vegetation in various parts of Chile, which, for purposes of botanical treatment, he divides into North (18° - 30° $30'$), Middle (30° $30'$ - 36°), and South (36° - 55°), and in each of these three divisions he distinguishes the coast and the interior lands with smaller areal classifications. In the later chapters he considers the genesis and life history of Chilean plants and presents a large number of facts as to the changes in the flora of the country in historic times. The eight Monographs now before the public are contributions of the greatest value to the orderly and scientific study of the regional distribution of vegetation.

Kartenkunde geschichtlich dargestellt von Hofrat C. Gelcich, Prof. F. Sauter und Dr. Paul Dinse. Dritte Auflage. Revidiert und erweitert von Dr. M. Groll. 177 pp., 71 Illustrations, and Index. G. J. Göschen. Leipzig, 1909. Price, 80 pf.

A condensed but excellent discussion of the cartographic art. Its progress is shown in Part 1 by the historical arrangement of the material. The earlier and later methods of place determination are described and the leading map projections of earlier and later times are shown with diagrams and mathematical discussion. Part 2 deals with modern map making, the development of methods for depicting the relief features of the earth by contours, shading and colours, and the symbolism by which a great variety of information is expressed on a map. A list of the most important books on Cartography (in German and French) is provided.

Illustrierter Führer durch Dalmatien (nebst Abbazia und Lussin). Längs der Küste von Albanien bis Korfu und nach den Ionischen Inseln. xvi and 244 pp., 8 Tables, 100 Illustrations, 19 Maps and Plans, and Index. Eighth Edition. A. Hartleben's Verlag, Vienna and Leipzig 1909. Price, M. 3.60.

An authoritative handbook on the regions of which it treats. They are coming, more and more, within the range of tourist travel. The letterpress, prepared with great care, is complete in its historical and geographical treatment and gives all the information required. The coloured maps and plans are produced in the best style of the map house of G. Freytag & Berndt. There are few good books on these eastern coast lands of the Adriatic, and this admirable volume should be in every public library.

Die Weltwirtschaft. Ein Jahr- und Lesebuch. Unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Fachleute herausgegeben von Dr. Ernst von Halle. (a) 1 Jahrgang, 1906: Three Parts. I Teil. Internationale Übersichten, viii and 366 pp.; II Teil, Deutschland, vi & 253 pp.; III Teil. Das Ausland, vi and 281 pp. (b) II Jahrgang, 1907: I Teil, Internationale Übersichten, vi & 368 pp.; II Teil, Deutschland, viii & 284 pp.; III Teil, Das Ausland, vi & 288 pp. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1906, 1907.

The two first volumes of an annual publication of great value to geographers, economists, and statisticians. Each topic is treated by a specialist and the Annual is calculated to keep those who read it carefully, well acquainted with the progress and activities of the more important phases of the world's business. Among the 46 subjects discussed in the volume for 1907, for example, are: Part I, The World's Agricultural Production, Banking Conditions, Insurance, Commerce and Communications, Industrial Technique; Part II, The Economic and Industrial Conditions of Germany in ten separate papers; Part III, Seventeen papers on the